



USDA – National
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Field Office

Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin



Cooperating with
Tennessee Department
of Agriculture

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Week Ending July 16, 2006

DIRE NEED FOR MOISTURE – ESPECIALLY IN EAST AND MIDDLE TENNESSEE

Dry, seasonable weather last week, especially in East and Middle Tennessee, allowed farmers 6 days suitable for fieldwork. Isolated rain showers occurred throughout the State last week, but totals varied significantly from over two and half inches to none. In East Tennessee, farmers are desperately in need of rain to help their deteriorated pastures and stressed crops. Crops overall, however, remain in mostly fair-to-good condition, but a general rain is truly needed across the State. With deteriorating pasture conditions, some farmers are either feeding hay or selling calves. Most of the State’s corn has reached or exceeded pollination, with almost a fifth of the crop in the roasting ear or dough stage. Three-fourths of the soybean acreage had reached the blooming stage, two weeks ahead of the 5-year average. Thirty-nine percent of the State’s soybeans are setting pods, but some double crop beans are struggling to germinate. Cotton development continued to be on pace with the 5-year average, with virtually all the acreage squaring. Tobacco producers started topping their crop on the earliest planted acreage. Farmers continued applying pesticides on soybeans and tobacco.

As of Friday, topsoil moisture levels were rated 16 percent very short, 33 percent short, 49 percent adequate and 2 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture levels were rated 16 percent very short, 35 percent short, and 49 percent adequate. Temperatures last week averaged 2 to 4 degrees above normal across the entire State, while precipitation averaged below normal.

CROP PROGRESS: Through July 16, 2006					CONDITION: On July 14, 2006					
Crop	This Week	Last Week	2005	Five Year Avg.	Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent					Percent				
Corn Silking	96	90	90	93	Corn	3	7	20	48	22
Corn Dough	20	n/a	33	36	Cotton	0	2	18	63	17
Cotton Squaring	99	92	98	95	Pastures	8	14	32	43	3
Cotton Setting Bolls	35	18	45	39	Soybeans	2	6	21	56	15
Soybeans Blooming	71	53	71	40	Tobacco	2	5	23	52	18
Soybeans Setting Pods	39	19	45	19						
Tobacco Topped	15	n/a	14	12						

n/a= not available

County Agent Comments

“Hay harvesting, spraying pastures for weeds, and spraying soybeans continued this week. One cow herd was affected by Dallas grass poisoning due to overgrazed pastures and cows feeding on seedheads of the Dallas grass. Pink eye continues to pop up in herds without any fly control strategies.”

Steve Glass, Decatur County

“Scattered showers and thunderstorms have helped some areas with needed moisture while other areas are still waiting their turn. Producers are beginning to make post-emerge herbicide applications to soybeans. Crops are growing well and additional moisture will be needed to cope with increasing summer temperatures.”

Jeff Lannom, Weakley County

“Scattered showers greatly benefited those crops that got them. Some corn is twisting and hay has been slow to recover after cutting due to dry weather. Some tobacco was sprayed this week for worms and to prevent blue mold.”

David Glover, Smith County

“Lack of rainfall has caused browning of pastures, short supply of water for cattle, and wilting of tobacco. Many farmers are becoming increasingly anxious for the next good rain.”

James Griffin, Union County

“A few producers are seeding for annual hay, due to pastures browning. Some tobacco leaves are starting to droop and turn yellow. Claiborne county and surrounding counties are in dire need of rain.”

Mike Heiskell, Claiborne County

TEMPERATURES AND PRECIPITATION
For week ending: July 16, 2006 (with comparisons)

LOCATION	TEMPERATURE				PRECIPITATION				GDD BASE 60F Since April 1	
	Week Ending July 16, 2006				Current Week 07/16/06	Rain Days	Current Since January 1	Departure From Normal	Total	DFN
	HI	LO	AVG	DFN						
Ames_Plantation	96	66	82	4	1.28	1	26.73	-3.54	1348	180
Tri-City_RGNL_A	91	60	76	3	0.58	3	22.54	-0.80	763	36
Brownsville_TN	95	73	83	3	0.29	4	28.44	-1.84	1422	438
Chattanooga/Lov	95	69	81	3	2.81	5	24.61	-5.84	1306	259
Clarksville_Sew	94	67	80	3	0.48	4	25.66	-2.81	1205	206
Cookeville	94	64	78	3	0.22	3	29.49	-2.52	899	319
Covington	95	64	81	2	0.75	2	26.55	-3.44	1296	116
Crossville_AP	88	64	77	4	0.58	5	27.22	-4.48	823	150
Dayton	92	65	79	2	0.96	5	22.63	-9.16	1018	93
Dickson_AG	92	65	78	1	0.29	2	27.08	-3.65	1021	-29
Dover_1W	93	68	80	3	1.33	4	26.89	-2.76	1099	222
Dyersburg	95	72	81	1	1.26	4	28.74	0.17	1444	177
Erwin_1W	90	61	76	5	0.27	3	31.49	3.70	750	-140
Huntingdon_Wate	95	69	81	3	0.46	2	28.00	-1.95	1222	287
Jackson_Exp_Stn	95	69	82	4	0.14	2	27.30	-2.93	1329	219
Kingston_AG	94	66	80	5	0.45	3	28.51	-4.57	1035	245
Knoxville_AP	94	65	80	4	0.40	4	23.04	-4.60	1155	264
Lewisburg	97	63	80	4	0.60	2	28.83	-2.65	1094	187
Lexington_TN	95	70	81	3	0.16	3	29.23	0.15	1174	552
Linden	95	68	80	3	0.08	2	28.93	-3.00	1125	203
Martin	93	70	80	2	1.69	4	30.88	0.85	1215	157
Mc_Minnville_Tn	94	68	81	5	1.04	6	30.97	0.29	1143	-47
Memphis_AG	97	68	83	2	0.02	1	28.25	-1.22	1460	44
Milan	96	67	81	4	0.41	3	29.62	-1.26	1249	215
Murfreesboro_5N	95	65	80	3	0.05	1	30.90	0.92	1125	-59
Nashville_Metro	95	68	82	4	0.51	2	25.26	-1.85	1287	188
Newcomb	91	62	77	5	1.47	5	26.91	-3.99	795	178
Oneida	90	61	77	5	0.64	4	27.04	-3.86	808	-173
Portland_TN	93	66	80	4	0.94	2	23.44	-6.15	1033	153
Pulaski_Water_P	98	67	81	3	0.15	2	30.90	-0.57	1147	30
Savannah_6SW	96	70	82	4	0.00	0	31.38	-1.65	1311	350
Sparta_TN	95	64	80	6	1.22	3	32.08	0.92	1062	300
Springfield	94	64	80	4	0.37	2	27.91	-0.52	961	65
Springhill	98	68	81	5	0.00	0	27.31	-4.27	1137	249
Union_City	92	65	79	1	1.65	6	33.63	4.10	1160	123
Waynesboro_TN	94	65	79	3	0.20	1	31.17	-1.98	1034	-38

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period). GDD = Growing Degree Days.
Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more. Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.
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